

## Message Text

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S E C R E T ROME 17702

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: RUMOR'S VIEWS ON RECENT MORO GOVERNMENT

1. IN MY FIRST PRIVATE MEETING WITH RUMOR AS ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE GAVE ME TODAY HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE STRENGTH OF THE CURRENT FOURTH MORO GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT SEVERAL FACTORS HAD COMBINED TO REASSURE OPINION IN ITALY, AND THAT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS A GOOD DEAL BETTER NOW THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THOUGH POSSIBLE TWO MONTHS AGO.

2. ONE FACTOR OF IMPORTANCE WAS THE EC SUMMIT WHICH BEGAN IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GREAT PESSIMISM, BUT AS IT TURNED OUT, ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN EXPECTED. ITALY HAD GAINED PRESTIGE IN INITIATING THE UK-EC COMPROMISE FORMULA, THUS ENHANCING THE FAVORABLE PUBLIC OPINION ASSESSMENT OF THE SUMMIT. IN ADDITION THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, AND ITS BROAD SUPPORT AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT, WAS REINFORCED BY THE FAVORABLE REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE JUST-CONCLUDED IRAN/EGYPT VISIT. FINALLY THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT MEETING AUGURED WELL FOR COORDINATION ON ENERGY MATTERS, AND THE REFLECTIONS OF ALL THESE EVENTS TENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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IN WHICH THE FOURTH MORO GOVERNMENT MUST OPERATE.

3. I NOTED THAT THE MOST PESSIMISTIC ANALYSTS HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVEN WRONG IN THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WITH THE UNIONS REMAIN, AND I ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON THOSE TWO AREAS. RUMOR ACKNOWLEDGED THE BASIC PROBLEMS ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE UNMANAGEABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS WHICH WE ALL FACE. AS FAR AS RELATIONS WITH THE UNIONS ARE CONCERNED HE MADE THE INTERESTING COMMENT THAT, DIFFICULT AS THE PROBLEM MAY BE, MORO IS THE MAN TO HANDLE IT.

4. COMMENT: RUMOR REFLECTED MUCH OF THE UPBEAT BUOYANCY WE HAVE NOTED DURING THESE FIRST WEEKS OF MORO'S FOURTH GOVERNMENT. THE PROBLEMS REMAIN, OF COURSE, AND THEY ARE FORMIDABLE ONES. MORO'S PARTICULAR QUALITIES ARE WELL SUITED TO HIS TASK, HOWEVER, AND IF SOME MIDDLE GROUND CAN BE FOUND BETWEEN UNION AND SOCIALIST PARTIES ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE FISCAL PRINCIPLES OF COLOMBO, CARLI AND LA MALFA ON THE OTHER HAND, MORO, WITH HIS TENACITY AND TALENT FOR COMPROMISE, SHOULD BE THE MAN TO DO THE JOB. VOLPE

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